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News Release

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DCPS officials and Corps of Engineers temporarily stop boiler replacement work at 10 schools

Baltimore – As a result of the discovery of the accidental release of asbestos fibers from the boiler room at Savoy Elementary School April 30, D.C. Public Schools officials and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are taking decisive steps to protect health and safety of students and staff. A stop work order was immediately issued for boiler replacement work at 10 schools to allow a thorough investigation of each job site to ensure that proper safety protocols are being followed.

“We are acting to make sure that students and staff are protected from exposure to asbestos,” said District Engineer Col. Charles J. Fiala Jr. “Safety remains our highest priority.”

Corps and D.C. Public School officials decided today to close Parkview Elementary School and one room at H.D. Cooke Elementary School as a precautionary measure until test results are known for asbestos fibers in and around each school’s boiler room. DCPS and Corps officials felt these closures were warranted because of the proximity of the boiler rooms to occupied areas of the schools.

All other schools remain open following this safety investigation.

“The Corps will not allow work to begin again until every appropriate safety precaution has been taken,” Fiala said. “In addition, we are conducting a safety stand-down of all contractors doing work for the Corps in support of DCPS on Monday, May 7. The purpose of this safety stand-down is to assure that contractors working under our supervision will place the safety of students, parents, teachers and staff first. ”